

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/656,937

Examiner

John M. Jillions

Applicant(s)

MAXWELL ET AL.

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone election of 12/28/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/1/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Page 5, line 10, "flange" has been changed to --flanges--.

Page 5, line 18, "Figure 8, the" has been changed to --Figure 8. The--.

Page 5, line 20, "portion 34. It" has been changed to --portion 34, as--.

Page 5, line 25, "or" has been changed to --of-- and "are has been changed to --being--.

Page 6, line 5, "linearally" has been changed to --linearly--.

Page 6, line 7, "collapsed" has been changed to --collapse--.

Page 7, line 9, "flange" has been changed to --flanges--.

Page 7, line 18, "received" has been changed to --receive--.

Claims 24-26 drawn to an invention non-elected without traverse have been canceled (see restriction requirement below).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to show or render obvious in a collapsible reel as set forth in the combination of claim 1, the provision of recesses in the flanges for complementally receiving a respective segment of each of

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the support units as recited in the last paragraph of claim 1. Such structure results in an overall thickness of the reel not being greater than the side by side thickness of the two flanges when the reel is collapsed, which structure or result is not shown in nor obvious from any of the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

RESTRICTION

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-23, drawn to a collapsible reel, classified in class 242, subclass 407.1.
- II. Claims 24-26, drawn to a method of making a collapsible reel, classified in class 264, subclass 45.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed at least can be made by a materially different process, such as by mechanical forming of the elements.

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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and because the searches for the two groups are not coextensive, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Williams on 12/28/04 an election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-23. Claims 24-26 have been withdrawn and canceled (see the examiner's amendment above) from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Jillions whose telephone number is (703) 308-2685. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:15 - 5:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John M. Jillions
Primary Examiner
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